

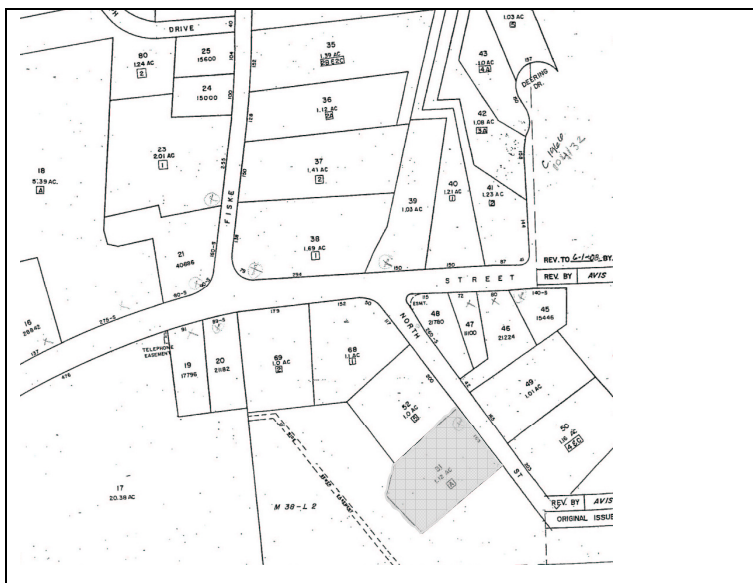
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (month / year): March 2010

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

39 51

Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)
North Tewksbury

Address: 1002 North Street

Historic Name: Battles Homestead

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: c1740

Source: SPNEA Internal Investigation

Style/Form: Georgian

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (c1900)

Workshop/ Storage building

Major Alterations (with dates):

Interior Renovation 1820-1850

Removal of front stair and addition to west elevation c 1850-1870

Condition: Good

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 1.12 Acres

Setting: Set back from the street in a formerly rural area developed in the second half of the 20th century as an industrial area.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

1002 NORTH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

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___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

1002 North Street is a rare example of Georgian architecture in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. The woodframe, two-and-a-half storey structure is comprised of a main block set on a field stone foundation with several later additions, including a two storey rear ell and a one storey enclosed front entrance. The side gable roof of the main block and rear ells are sheathed in asphalt shingles. The three by three bay main block of the house is a three-by-two bay structure with six-over-six sash windows and louver shutters, and a large, unframed chimney. The facade of the main block features an enclosed front entry and early clapboards.

Later Colonial Revival details were added to the house, including a pedimented door with pilasters and a bay window at the south elevation.

Recent scholarship suggests that the Battles House is an example of an early square plan house, an adaptation of the early Rhode Island house form known as the stone-ender. With the exception of the stone end, the square plan and the stone ender buildings share similar timber-frame construction, including the retention of the crossed girts in the center of the building, creating the off-center, unframed chimney. The interior also displays evidence of this style with a chimney that services three interior fireboxes at the first storey, three posts on each wall, and a rear stairhall (opposed to the usual one in front). While later nineteenth century renovations significantly altered the house's interior, early built-in cabinetry, wrought iron hardware and gunstock cornerpost beams remain intact from its original construction. (*Carmelich, September 2000*)

"The outbuildings on the property include a one-and-a-half storey, wood-frame garage with a one storey ell at the south elevation, and a small, one storey workshop. The garage and workshop are set approximately 50 yards southwest and west of the main house, respectively. Built circa 1900, the garage was used as a small shopfront before its conversion to a two-car garage sometime in the early to mid-twentieth century, while the size and shape of the workshop suggests it was used for storage. The garage features a hipped roof with asphalt shingles while the workshop has a gable end roof with asphalt shingles. Both structures are sided with wood clapboards." (*Carmelich, 2000*)

"The Battles House is in a suburban/industrial setting. The land immediately adjacent to the house is owned by the Raytheon Company while a residential neighborhood with early period homes" is located nearby on Andover Street. (*Carmelich, 2000*)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Battles House is one of Tewksbury's oldest surviving buildings. Originally situated on 40 acres of farmland, the house stands as a remarkable example of eighteenth century vernacular architecture. It may also be one of a few surviving examples of a square plan house in Massachusetts. Recent scholarship suggests that the square plan house is an adaptation on the early Rhode Island house form known as the stone-ender. With the exception of the stone end, the square plan and the stone ender buildings share similar timber-frame construction techniques, including retention of the crossed girts in the center of the building, thus creating the off-center, unframed chimney. (*Carmelich, 2000*)

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The Battles House remained in the Battles family for 130 years. Until the twentieth century, each generation occupying the Battles House had used the surrounding land for farming. In 1847, Cyrus Battles purchased the land and used it for his market gardens, dairy, and prize winning apple and peach orchards. The Battles family tenure on the land established the family within the larger Tewksbury community. In the early twentieth century, the Battles family donated an archway and trees to the local cemetery, and were active in the North Tewksbury Baptist Church. In 1985, the house and the surrounding land [were] sold to Raytheon Company for private company use. Most recently, however, finding no suitable use for the house, the company sold the property, comprised of one acre of land to private homeowners with restrictive preservation covenants held by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA). (Carmelich, 2000)

The Battles family moved to Tewksbury from Lowell where they were employed in the mill industry. Additional deed research would be necessary to determine the owners of the farm in the 18th century. Although the 2000 *Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Form* states the house was in the Battles Family for 130 years, Cyrus Morton Battles is shown on the 1875 map as residing on North Street near the intersection of Livingston Street. Cyrus was the son of Cyrus P and Elizabeth [Morton] Battles of Lowell where Cyrus M Battles worked as a clerk in 1845. In the late 1880s and 1890s Cyrus M Battles maintained a house at 20 Sixth Street in Lowell. Cyrus married his wife Hannah in Lowell in 1852 and they had two children, Josephine (b.1873) and Charles H Battles (b.1854). Cyrus M Battles died in Lowell in 1899.

Charles Battles, a dairy farmer, married his wife Hannah Francis c 1883 and lived in the house at 1002 North Street with his family, including his son Philip Morton Battles, born in 1884. Philip Battles was also a dairy farmer. He and his wife Anna had four children: Charles Abbot (b.1905), Philip (b.1907), Francis (b.1910), and Ralph (b.1914). Ralph inherited his father's farmhouse.

According to historic maps and atlases the house was occupied in 1875 and 1889 by George M Dickerson, who worked in a machine shop. In the early 20th century there were two other homes on the Battles farm, a rectangular-plan dwelling and a Queen Anne style dwelling, as well as various storage buildings, barns, henhouses, other agricultural outbuildings that were removed for the construction of the Raytheon campus.

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- Map of the Town of Tewksbury 1852. Henry F Walling. Boston, MA.
- 1865 Map of Tewkesbury with inset.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1889. Geo H Walker & Co.
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